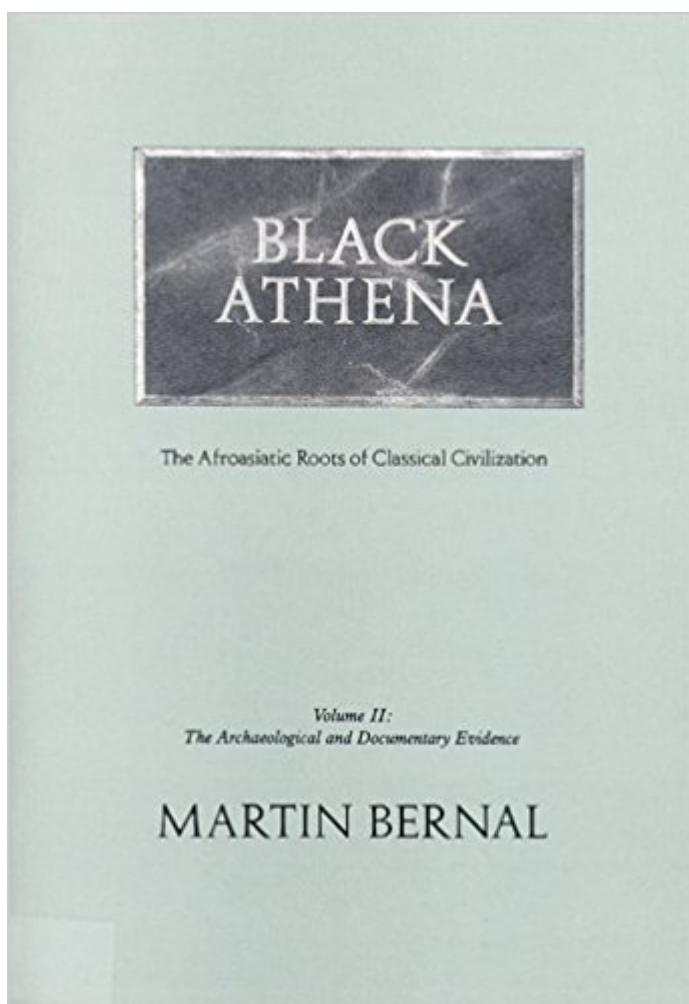


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Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots Of Classical Civilization (Volume 2: The Archaeological And Documentary Evidence)



Synopsis

Winner of the American Book Award, 1990. This volume is the second in a projected four-part series concerned with the competition between two historical models for the origins of Greek civilization. The model current today is the Aryan Model, according to which Greek culture arose as the result of the conquest from the north by Indo-European speakers or "Aryans" of the native "pre-Hellenes." The Ancient Model, which was the model maintained in Classical Greece, held that the native population of Greece had initially been civilized by Egyptian and Phoenician colonists and that more Near Eastern culture had been introduced to Greece by Greeks studying in Egypt and Southwest Asia. In these and later volumes, Martin Bernal proposes a Revised Ancient Model. According to this, the Indo-European aspects of Greek language and culture should be recognized as fundamental and the considerable non-Indo-European elements should be seen largely as Egyptian and Levantine additions to this basis. Volume II is concerned with the archaeological and documentary evidence for contacts between Egypt and the Levant on the one hand and the Aegean on the other, during the Bronze Age from c. 3400 B.C. to c. 1100 B.C. These approaches are supplemented by information from later Greek myths, legends, religious cults, and language. The author concludes that contact between the two regions was far more extensive and influential than is generally believed. In the introduction to this volume, Bernal also responds to some reviews and criticisms of Volume I of *Black Athena*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What is classical about Classical civilization? In one of the most audacious works of scholarship

ever written, Martin Bernal challenges the whole basis of our thinking about this question. Classical civilization, he argues, has deep roots in Afroasiatic cultures. But these Afroasiatic influences have been systematically ignored, denied or suppressed since the eighteenth century - chiefly for racist reasons.

Martin Bernal (1937 -2013) was Professor of Government and Near Eastern Studies at Cornell University. The first two volumes of Black Athena: The Afroasiatic Roots of Classical Civilization (I: The Fabrication of Ancient Greece, 1785-1985 and II: The Archaeological and Documentary Evidence) have been translated into German, Italian, Spanish, French, Swedish, Greek, and Japanese. Black Athena won the American Book Award in 1990 from the Before Columbus Foundation.

I bought this book hoping to learn interesting facts about Greek antiquity, instead it is mainly an ugly polemic trying to prove some Semitic superiority over some Aryan influence over the poor Greeks, by forcing the modern scholars against each other under the stigma of racism.

I like this book. Have one more to get

Brilliant!

Great work. Must read.

Brave enough to explore unknown area of history with vast knowledge based upon extensive research and imaginative analysis. Hyksos invasion to Crete is an intriguing argument, but it somehow contradicts history as Egyptians treated Crete people as if the most favored people. Egyptians in the Middle Kingdom hated Hyksos, invaders, and wiped out their historical records. Another thing I question is his statement that Egyptians were seagoing people. They did not have trees to make ocean crossing ships. Phoenicians sold trees grown in Lebanon mountain to Egyptians for centuries. However, it is not deniable that archaeological evidences in Crete show both Egyptian and, perhaps, Phoenician influences. This is the mystery.

Interesting but to much information and little really new. A book good to remember but the connections with the classics are not clear,

Good for it's research. Could have been written in a better format. Dull as a door nail, but worth the reference.

A must read for those wanting to know MORE about our Western roots. The "rest of the story."

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